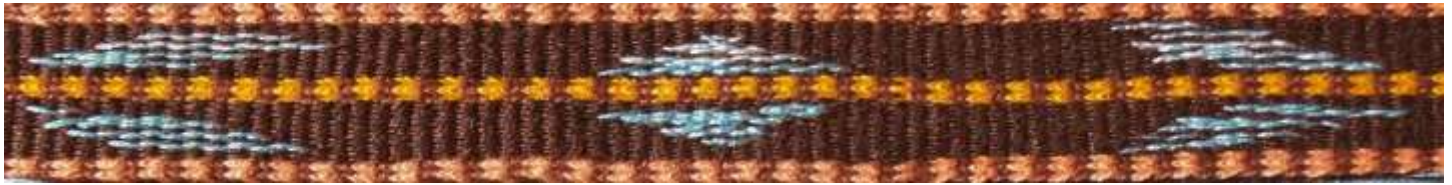

Faux Ikat in Card Weaving: Freeform Double-faced Patterning

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Example 1: Free-form double-faced weaving

The term Faux Ikat is used in loom weaving where colors of space-dyed yarn are arranged to create an ikat effect. We can do the same thing in card weaving. But there is another way. Here we explore the use of the double-faced technique to create ikat patterns. Simple, but effective, and ideal to teach in introductory classes.

What I love about card weaving is the freedom to create designs as you go. Just because your warp is set up in a certain way does not mean you are limited to weaving one and the same pattern. Most patterns in card weaving require precision. Mistakes show readily. It shows when a single card is out of place. It shows when a single turn is wrong. Inexperienced card weavers are easily discouraged by a technique that is too strict and unforgiving. Unweaving is even more difficult and many beginners drop card weaving altogether at this point.

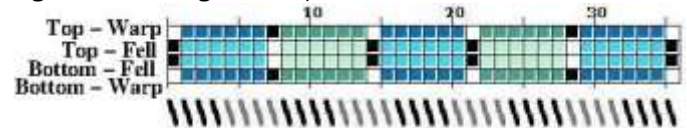
Let us look at what double-faced means in the first place and how it works. As the name suggests, this technique of weaving creates patterns on both faces of the woven band. The patterns are identical, the colors exchanged. The setup is simple. All pattern cards are threaded with two colors, let's say dark-dark-light-light. In our Example 2 the colors were dark blue, dark green, black and light blue, light green, white. The cards were arranged as shown in Figure 1. The threading direction was the same for all cards, S-threading in this case. It could also have been Z-threading or SZ-threading.

In order to weave, all cards were turned two quarter turns backwards, two quarter turns forwards, with a weft inserted after every quarter turn. This sequence created a band with the dark green and dark blue on top, light green and light blue underneath. The black/white lines started out as: card #1: white, card #8: black, card #15: white, card #22: white, card #29: black, card #36: white.

After several double turns card #22 was flipped around the vertical axis making it Z-threaded. The next turn brought black to the top. A couple of picks later card #15 was flipped. Every black/white color change corresponded to a flip of that particular card. The color changes were rather random. They were done whenever a color change seemed like a good idea.

In Example 1, I mimicked an ikat pattern not as an outline but as the main pattern. In this case it was more convenient to use the two-pack system for weaving because too many cards would have to be flipped to create the pattern.

Figure 1: Threading for Example 2



Example 2: Ikat lines